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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
(Attorney Docket No.: 109878.126)

Applicant(s): Ferrari, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/998,682  
Filed: October 31, 2001  
For: **HIERARCHICAL DATA-DRIVEN SEARCH AND NAVIGATION  
SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INFORMATION RETRIEVAL**

Group Art Unit: 2172  
Examiner: Cam-Y T Truong

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

12/20/04  
Date

Anthony Sutton  
Anthony Sutton

**SEVENTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner:

Applicant and his attorney are aware of the following publications and information listed on the attached PTO Form 1449, and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97 hereby submit these documents for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicant states that the publications were cited in a Written Opinion issued in connection with counterpart Patent Cooperation Treaty Application No. PCT/US01/17046. A copy of the Written Opinion is also enclosed for the Examiner's review. All but two of the documents cited in the Written Opinion have already been disclosed. Copies of the references cited on PTO Form 1449 are not enclosed as the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) has been waived.

It is respectfully requested that the information above be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the publications be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In this regard, it is requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office Communication.

12/27/2004 FHTEK11 00000038 080219 09998682

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified patent application are the following documents:

- 1.) Seventh Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2.) Form PTO-1449;
- 3.) Copy of the Written Opinion from PCT/US01/17046; and
- 4.) Return Postcard.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection with this matter to Deposit account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/20/2004

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09/998,682  
Ferrari, et al.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material to patentability or that the listed documents are prior art.

If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.


Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; therefore, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$180.00 fee pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

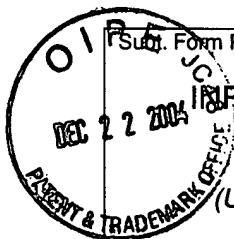
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/20/2004

  
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PS Form PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number  
109878.126Application Number  
09/998,682Applicant  
Ferrari, et al.Filing Date  
October 31, 2001Group Art Unit  
2172

Sheet 1 OF 1

## U.S. Patent Documents

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,360,227 B1	03/19/2002	Aggarwal et al.	707	102	01/29/1999
	6,571,282 B1	05/27/2003	Bowman-Amuah	709	219	08/31/1999

## Foreign Patent Documents

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

## Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609: Draw Line through citation if not conformance and not considered. Include copy with next communication to applicant.